

COMMUNITY

SECTION B

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MARCH 4, 2010

Patrolling Pioneers

City honors first black cops

BY T. KEVIN WALKER
THE CHRONICLE

Law enforcement officers of color have always had to do more than simply uphold the law.

As members of minorities communities with long-held mistrust of the law and legal system, they've had to act as ambassadors and bridge-builders. And as minorities in a profession that remains largely white and male, they have been victims of the moral crimes of hatred and workplace bigotry.

Those challenges and many more were acknowledged on Sunday, Feb. 21 as the Winston-Salem Police Department celebrated Black History Month by honoring some of the department's trailblazers.

"What these pioneers started still needs to be completed," said Police Chief Scott Cunningham, acknowledging that nearly 70 years after the city hired its first black officer, the department still hasn't succeeded in making its ranks reflect the racial diversity of the community it serves.

The man who broke the color barrier was the first honored at the ceremony, which took place before a crowd of about four dozen



Lillian Bonner's son, Horace (far left) and grandson, Anthony, prepare to accept a plaque from Winston-Salem Police Chief Scott Cunningham.

people at the Carl Russell Recreation Center. John Joyce joined the city's police force on Oct. 1, 1941, after a career working with black at-risk youths. A graduate of N.C. A&T State University, Joyce also worked as a night watchman at a local armory and a teacher before joining the force.

Joyce is deceased; no member of his family was on hand to accept a plaque and the appreciation of the audience. Several members of the late Lillian Bonner's family were in attendance. Bonner became the depart-

ment's first black female officer in 1952. She spent 30 years on the force. Her son, Horace Bonner, said his mother preferred the term "peace" officer rather than police officer. But in her line of work, peace has its limits.

"She only went to the other side when you made her," Horace Bonner said.

The Department's first black officers were often relegated to policing duties in the African American community, where they were mostly revered.

George Redd joined the force in 1951. During a

career that spanned three decades, he became one of Forsyth County's first school resource officers, a role that earned him the nickname "Daddy Redd." Redd is still living, but was in the hospital on the day of the ceremony. His son, George Redd Jr., was on hand to represent the Redd family, which also includes Oliver Redd (another one of George Redd's children), who served on the police force for 16 years.

"I really never heard anybody say anything bad about



Bonner



McFadden

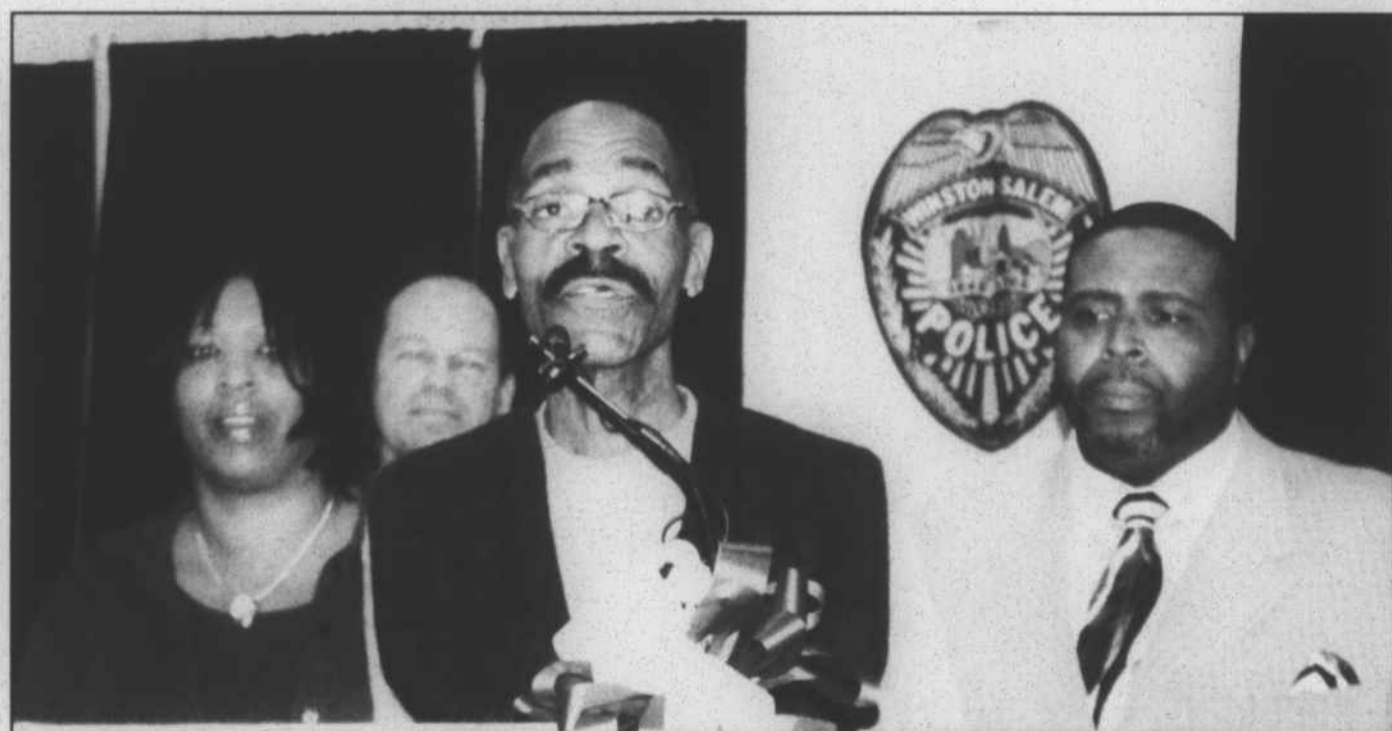


Joyce



Redd

See Officers on B2



Above: Joe McFadden's son, Charles, talks about his father, as his daughter, LeShawn Amos and her husband, Craig Amos, stand beside him.

Right: Ralph Meadows leads the crowd in the singing of "Lift Every Voice." To his right are Police Chief Cunningham, Assistant Chief Barry Rountree and Galilee Pastor Dr. Nathan Scovens.



George Redd Jr. speaks.



The crowd sings the Black National Anthem.



Community Calendar

Mavericks try-outs

The Kernersville Mavericks Organization will have try-outs on Saturday, March 6 at 3:30 p.m. for ages 10 - 12; and for ages 13 - 16 at 4:30 p.m. The try-outs will be at the Kernersville YMCA in the South Gym. For information, visit www.league-lineup.com/kvillemavs.

AARP meeting

Forsyth AARP Chapter Number 1797 will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at noon at Senior Services, 2895 Shorefair Drive. The theme is "Successful Aging/Health and Wellness." For additional information, contact Dr. Althea Taylor Jones at 336-996-3866 or dratj@embarq-mail.com.

Magic show fundraiser

Popular Las Vegas illusionist show "The Reality Magic" is coming to West Forsyth High School Performing Arts Center on Monday, March 8 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds will help fund scholarships at The Special Children's School and West Forsyth. Contact Stuart Egan at 336-712-4400 or Donna Small at 336-924-9309 for tickets, or purchase at the door.

Tree pruning presentation

Keith Finch, an arborist for the City of Winston-Salem, will give a free presentation on the proper way to prune trees at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 8 in the auditorium of the Central Library, 600 W. Fifth St. He will be available to answer questions about pruning or tree care. The event is sponsored by the Community Appearance Commission of Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.

Church and Community Fitness Day

U-Fit2 Health & Wellness Inc. will host a Church and Community Fitness Day on Saturday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Piney Grove Baptist Church Family Life Center, 4715 Indiana Ave. The event is free and open to the public and will feature health screenings, fitness exercise classes for all levels and a panel discussion.

Tiny Indians sign-ups

The Winston-Salem Tiny Indians will have sign-ups on Saturday, March 6 in the East Winston Shopping center from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Easter dance show

Positive Image Performing Arts is sponsoring "Easter Praise Dance Showcase 2010" on Saturday, March 6 at 3 p.m. at Brendle Recital Hall at Wake Forest University. It will feature liturgical praise dance, mime and step teams from area churches and the community. For more information, to purchase tickets or ask about being a vendor, call 336-971-1890 or 336-917-3005 or email annual-praisedanceshowcase@gmail.com.



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